

CABO VERDE



Supporting Alliance for African Mobility

FROM: Spain, Asociación Mundus and San Viator
TO: Cabo Verde, Escola de Hotelaria e Turismo de Cabo Verde

18/04/2021 - 25/04/2021

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Travel diary

Cabo Verde

Let's discover our two mobility experts

Beatrice Bellet and Marco Sebastiani are the perfect team! Their expertise in mobility projects and their enthusiasm make them great SAAM ambassadors in Cabo Verde. Let's get to know them!



BEATRICE BELLET

Head of Strategic Projects department in Mundus

Beatrice is coordinating SAAM through Mundus but she also takes part as a field worker. She is the SAAM GIRL because she wrote the project in 2019 and she knows its essence like no one. Therefore, Beatrice brings strong experience and a unique point of view in SAAM.

She is an interpreter translator in French-English and Spanish with a Master in Interpretation with a speciality in Geopolitics. She has worked on European projects since 2003 in various programs of the European Commission, all related to lifelong learning and capacity building among groups under risk of exclusion. She has coordinated the EUROPRO platform of the Government of Aragon, which provides training and technical assistance in the presentation of international projects to the entities of the Third Sector of the Aragon community. She has written, managed and justified more than 40 projects that have brought together more than 150 entities throughout Europe.

MARCO SEBASTIANI

Financial Manager in Centro San Viator

In SAAM Marco develops financial management but also takes part as a field worker.

Marco has a strong experience in managing budgets of different projects and companies.

He has a degree in Economics and a Master in Economy and management of networks and innovation. This brought him to have many experiences abroad mostly in Asia, before taking part of the activities of European Erasmus+ projects.

Marco is also accounting responsible in San Viator and organizes mobilities abroad of students.



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Travel diary ➤

📍 Arriving in Cabo Verde

Sunday, April 18th

On Sunday, we both arrived in **Praia** (Cabo Verde).

We were accommodated in **Hotel Oasis Atlantico Praiamar** because the school hotel was not available. The local government is using the school facilities to give shelter to people affected by Covid.



Our hotel was a very touristic place. It is very close to the coast and the beach.
The views were incredible!



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Travel diary ✈️

📍 Praia, Cabo Verde

Monday, April 19th

08:00

Our second day in Cabo Verde started at 8 am. We had breakfast in the hotel and right after that, **Sergio Sequeira**, president and leader of the project, picked us up at 8:45am and we went straight to the school.

We had a meeting with Sergio and the supervisor of the **pedagogical team** who is also part of the executive boarding of the school. We explained SAAM in detail and then, we went for a **tour visit to the school**, exploring all the premises.



The premises are perfect, clean, modern and give the opportunity to the students to **learn by doing** as if they were in a real restaurant or hotel. Due to the education field of hospitality and tourism, the academic year in the school never stops (only one week for Christmas Holidays). Right now, because of **Covid**, only 100 students (instead of 300) are coming to have classes and only 50 staff members are currently working on-site.

The school was built in 2011 thanks to fundings coming from **The Luxembourg Government**:

- 40% is financed by the government directly.
- 40% is financed by the government indirectly through the students grant.
- 20% is coming from projects, external services, etc.

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Travel diary

 **Praia, Cabo Verde**

Monday, April 19th

THE STUDENTS

70% of the students are women. Among those, half of them are single mothers.

The rate of employability in EHTCV is over 70-80%. The students are all over-aged.

In EHTCV we can also find training for taxi drivers (languages, culture and history, communication skills...).



In the school, you can find a **school restaurant open to the public** where the students cook and serve to practice in a real experience. They also open the restaurant to the school students to give them the opportunity to be “a client of a restaurant” and to feel the expectations of a real client.

After the visit, we had lunch in a restaurant that hosts **EHTCV students for internships**. The manager and the cook are very happy with the skills of the students.



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Travel diary

 **Praia, Cabo Verde**

Tuesday, April 20th

Sergio Sequeira picked us up at 8:45 am and we visited the **neighborhood** close to our hotel. He showed us a bridge built by a Chinese company that will connect a small island in front of the beach where they want to build hotels, casinos and tourist attractions.

At 9:15 am, we had our **session with students**.



The students chosen for the attendance of the session are the group studying **Hotel Management**. This programme is new in the centre and this is the first promotion.

They are **21 young boys and girls between 18 and 32 years old**. We had a session of 2 hours and we were happy to see that they are very focused on their studies and they like the idea of going and studying abroad but they do not want to lose focus on their goals.

MORE MATERIAL

Watch here a video summary of the presentation with students.



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📍 **Praia, Cabo Verde**

Tuesday, April 20th

In the second part of the morning and during the afternoon **we visited companies** where the students of EHTCV realize their internship.

The first company we visited was the **Hotel Pèrola**. Hotel Pèrola is a private national hotel not belonging to international groups. It is focused on business customers and has 16 high-level rooms available. **This hotel usually hosts EHTCV students in internship during 2 or 3 months** depending on the department. Many of them (10 people right now) are still working in the hotel as for example Veronica, chef assistant, who cooked a fantastic lunch.



After lunch, we had a walk to the downtown of Praia and we saw the government building where the president is working and we enjoyed fantastic views of the bay. The second company we visited is **Hotel Pestana Tropic**. This hotel is part of Pestana Group which is an important Portuguese group.



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Travel diary

Praia, Cabo Verde

Tuesday, April 20th

The last company we visited was the hotel in which we were accommodated in Praia, Oasis Praiamar. This hotel usually hosts 10 students per year in different kind of services (cooking, food and beverage, housekeeping) and the manager of the hotel is sure that an abroad experience for the students should be very productive.

All the companies are really enthusiastic about the knowledge and the **proffesionalism** that the EHTCV achieves with their courses.

DID YOU KNOW ?

→ Cape Verde has 10 islands. 9 of them are habited. Praia is located in Santiago Island and this is the biggest one. It counts with 250.000 inhabitants and other 250.000 are distributed among the other 9 islands.

→ Cape Verde has been Portuguese since 1640 until 1975 when it was declared independent.

→ The language spoken in Cabo Verde is the Criollo slightly different to the original Portuguese.

→ For now some 4 or 5 years, the government has put VET Education as one of its first priorities. They have invested a lot in the public education for Vocational Training.



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📍 Praia, Cabo Verde

Wednesday, April 21th

At 10 am today, we went to the school to prepare the **session with teachers**.

We received a call from **María Dolores Ríos Peset, Ambassador of Spain in Cabo Verde**. She wanted to attend the information session as the SAAM programme in Cape Verde will be related to Spain (peers and the students' mobilities).



The session with teachers lasted 1,5h. They were very interested in the project and they asked many questions. The Spanish Ambassador also asked a lot of questions and raised some concerns about visas and mobilities but remained really surprised with our project.



In the afternoon we visited a VET center, **CERMI**, created in 2013. This VET center is dedicated to renewable energy and to industrial maintenance. The main courses are in topics like solar energy, eolic energy but also machining and welding.

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Praia, Cabo Verde

Wednesday, April 21th

Later we visited **IEFP Cabo Verde** who is the public VET Authority. It was an amazing experience, we tasted a cake prepared by their students and they explained us all the courses and projects that they are implementing.

INTERESTING FACTS

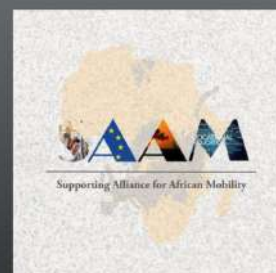
- Today we had the opportunity to visit the “**back-office**” of the **EHTCV**. It is self-sufficient in terms of energy. Using solar panels, water renewal and they have an own huge generator in case the city runs out of electricity (which is quite often as the city of Praia is growing very rapidly).
- The **CERMI building** is completely self-sustainable.



#VibingTogether



Find the SAAM
playlist on Spotify



SAAM - Vibing
Together

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📍 **Praia, Cabo Verde**

Thursday, April 22th

Today we have had our great **DISSEMINATION EVENT**.



The school invited the **ambassadors** from Spain, Portugal and Europe. The press and TV media were also present. We explained the project to all the assistants and we were interviewed. In the afternoon, several media outlets published the information about the event and **we even appeared on the national TV channel!**

**Watch here the video
with English subtitles**



We went to the Portuguese Embassy to meet the ambassador **António Albuquerque Moniz**. As Portugal is a peer country together with Spain, it was important to explain SAAM.

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Travel diary

Praia, Cabo Verde

Thursday, April 22th

Then we went to the **EU Delegation** to meet with Anna Sofia Santa Rita Vieira, the delegate in charge of Erasmus and cooperation. The meeting was really fruitful and many new ideas came up, always to improve our project and its results.

XALABAS PROJECT

Xalabas project is an Urban Art Program of the Community at the Center project, promoted by the NGO Africa'70 in partnership with the Pilorinhu Association and the Praia City Council.

The neighborhood where the project was born was quite complicated due to living conditions of the neighbors and the high level of crime.

The name, Xalabas, comes from a fishing net and the idea is to recover and give shelter to people living in bad conditions through art, training programs, sport, agriculture in order to find enthusiasm again in their lives.

This project is based on a concept of public intervention as a time of collaboration and dialogue with residents and traders of Achada Great Front.

The participating artists carry out their activities on a residency basis, finally leaving their works on the walls and in the neighborhood environments.

The main objective of the Urban Art Program is to transform Achada Grande Frente into a 'Urban Art Neighborhood'.



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📍 Praia, Cabo Verde

Friday, April 23th

On Friday, we visited the **Embassy of Luxembourg** and we met **Thomas Barbancey** - Chargé d'Affaires. It is a crucial and strategic embassy for EHTCV as the school was built 10 years ago with funds from Luxembourg. They were really happy to know more about SAAM and how the project will give the opportunity to reach international agreements and collaboration.



Also, we had a session with the staff. There were workers from administration, maintenance, marketing, responsible for organizing internships and the board of the school, etc... We had a session of 1,5 hours and we were happy to see that they were compromised with the center and the activity that the school is developing because they are conscious of the opportunity that this project can give to the school and their students.



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Praia, Cabo Verde

Friday, April 23th

Finally, we went to the **Employment and Finance Ministry** because this is the ministry in charge of VET programs in Cabo Verde. It was important to explain SAAM so that they are aware about the future support that **EHTCV** could need to establish a foreign department to manage mobilities when the SAAM project ends.

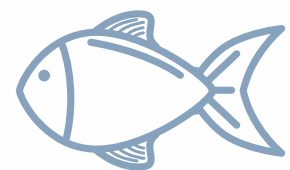


The weekend

Before going back home, we spent the weekend discovering Cabo Verde in a more touristic way. We want to share with you our highlights:

FOOD

- **Papiar** means **eat** in Criollo
- Cape Verde has a **great cuisine and gastronomy** mainly based on seafood, fishes, green vegetables, rice and fruits. We tasted all kinds of fishes but our favourite preparations were definitely the **Esmerogal, Serra and a fantastic "Polvo"** (octopus).
- For breakfast, we tried the typical **"Kachupa"**. It is made of beans, corn and meat accompanied with eggs and sausages. It is very tasty.



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TOURISM

- Santiago Island is known as the birth place of the **slave trade**. Colons from Portugal and Belgium came to Cabo Verde first in 1465.
- We also visited the rest of the island. First, **Cidade de Velha** is the first city with pavement in Africa. The Velha is the column where the colons punished the slaves.
- Then we went driving through the whole **Santiago Island** (70km from one end to another). The landscape is full of contrasts. The sea side is astonishing with huge clives and nice beaches in Tarrafal for example. The interior is composed of tall mountains and hollow valleys and you can drive up and down all the time with exceptional views.



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Praia, Cabo Verde

MUSIC AND DANCE

As Sergio Sequeira told us: ***"Music is one of our postal cards in Cabo Verde"***.

It has many influences from Portugal, Brazil, etc... One of the most traditional music is the one played by the **"Batukeras"**. Batuka is the style of music created by women in Cabo Verde, the birth place of slave trade. Drums were condemned by the Church and taken away from the slaves because it was considered an act of rebellion. The women continued their singing and dancing and the Batuka lives on today.

You can also find in Cabo Verde rhythms like **Morna and Funana**. When you listen to this, it makes you travel to Santo Domingo or Cuba sometimes.

Main artists of traditional Cabo Verde music are Tito Paris, Cesaria Evora, Elida Almeida... **Discover them on our Spotify playlist!**

DID YOU KNOW ?

 One of the island of Cabo Verde is Fogo and there you can find a vulcano which sometimes gets active and induces earthquakes.

 It is now 3 years without raining in Cabo Verde.

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Travel diary ✈

📍 **Praia, Cabo Verde**



Until the next time! 🖐

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